

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-21 (cancelled).

22. (currently amended) A system for maintaining a data sources ~~source for use in~~ through a directory assistance provider comprising:

an interface for receiving signals in establishing a ~~first~~ communication connection with the directory assistance provider, the ~~first~~ communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more ~~data elements in the data source~~ sources which are associated with the initiator being ~~located~~ identified to the directory assistance provider based on an identifier in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

a receiver for receiving from the initiator a request for taking an action concerning disclosing to the initiator a selected one of the data ~~elements~~ sources, the initiator being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the selected data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the selected data source, the directory assistance provider being accorded a level of access to the selected data source as a function of the level of access allocated to the initiator element being associated with an access right requirement; and

a processor for determining that the directory assistance provider is allowed to take the action when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the directory assistance provider ~~identifying an access right of the initiator concerning the selected data element, disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator being prohibited when the access right of the initiator does not meet the access right requirement; and~~

a device for offering to establish a second communication connection for the initiator based on the selected data element despite a prohibition of the disclosure of the

~~selected data element to the initiator.~~

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23. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the selected data ~~element~~  
source includes information concerning an individual.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the selected data  
~~element~~ source includes information concerning a group.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the selected data ~~element~~  
source includes contact information.

Claims 26 and 27 (cancelled).

28. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein ~~at least one of the first~~  
~~and second communication connections~~ connection includes a telephone connection.

29. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 28 wherein ~~at least one of the~~  
~~first and second communication connections~~ identifier includes a telephone number an  
Internet connection.

Claims 30-40 (cancelled).

41. (currently amended) A system for ~~providing use by a provider of a~~  
communications service ~~using a database~~ comprising:

at least one data source associated with a user, the data source being searchable  
for contact information concerning a desired party based on which the provider  
establishes a communication connection to the desired party for the user, the user being

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allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the data source, the provider being accorded a level of access to the data source as a function of the level of access allocated to the user;

an interface for receiving a call by the from a user to the provider, the call including a request for taking an action concerning the data source, the data source being identified to the provider based on an identifier associated with the call communicating with a desired party; and

a first device for searching the database for contact information concerning the desired party to which a communication connection is to be established for the user, the contact information being associated with an access right requirement concerning disclosure of the contact information;

a processor for identifying an access right of the user;

a controller for allowing the provider to take the action when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the provider prohibiting disclosure of the contact information to the user when the access right of the user does not satisfy the access right requirement; and

a second device for establishing a communication connection for the user based on the contact information despite a prohibition of disclosure of the contact information to the user.

42. (original) The system of claim 41 wherein the communications service includes a voice communications service.

43. (currently amended) The system of claim 41 wherein the ~~database~~ data source includes a directory.

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F 44. (original) The system of claim 43 wherein the communications service includes a directory assistance service.

Claim 45 (cancelled).

E 46. (original) The system of claim 41 wherein the communication connection includes a telephone connection.

47. (currently amended) A method for maintaining a data source for use in sources through a directory assistance provider comprising:

receiving signals in establishing a first communication connection with the directory assistance provider, the first communication connection being initiated by an initiator using a communications apparatus, one or more data elements in the data source sources which are associated with the initiator being located identified to the directory assistance provider based on an identifier in the received signals which identifies the communications apparatus;

receiving from the initiator a request for taking an action concerning disclosing to the initiator a selected one of the data elements sources, the initiator being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the selected data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the selected data source, the directory assistance provider being accorded a level of access to the selected data source as a function of the level of access allocated to the initiator element being associated with an access right requirement; and

determining that the directory assistance provider is allowed to take the action when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the directory assistance provider

identifying an access right of the initiator concerning the selected data element;

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prohibiting disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator when the access right of the initiator does not meet the access right requirement; and  
offering to establish a second communication connection for the initiator based on the selected data element despite a prohibition of disclosure of the selected data element to the initiator.

48. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the selected data element source includes information concerning an individual.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the selected data element source includes information concerning a group.

50. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the selected data element source includes contact information.

Claims 51 and 52 (cancelled).

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein ~~at least one of the first and second communication connections~~ connection includes a telephone connection.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein ~~at least one of the first and second communication connections~~ identifier includes an Internet connection a telephone number.

Claims 55-65 (cancelled).

66. (currently amended) A method for use by a provider of providing a

communications service ~~using a database~~ comprising:

maintaining at least one data source associated with a user, the data source being searchable for contact information concerning a desired party based on which the provider establishes a communication connection to the desired party for the user, the user being allocated one of a plurality of levels of access to the data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed actions concerning the data source, the provider being accorded a level of access to the data source as a function of the level of access allocated to the user;

receiving a call by the ~~from a user~~ to the provider, the call including a request for taking an action concerning the data source, the data source being identified to the provider based on an identifier associated with the call ~~communicating with a desired party;~~

~~searching the database for contact information concerning the desired party to which a communication connection is to be established for the user, the contact information being associated with an access right requirement concerning disclosure of the contact information;~~

~~identifying an access right of the user,~~

~~prohibiting disclosure of the contact information to the user when the access right of the user does not satisfy the access right requirement; and~~

allowing the provider to take the action when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the provider ~~establishing a communications connection for the user based on the contact information despite a prohibition of disclosure of the contact information to the user.~~

67. (original) The method of claim 66 wherein the communications service includes a voice communications service.

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68. (currently amended) The method of claim 66 wherein the ~~database~~ data source includes a directory.

69. (original) The method of claim 68 wherein the communications service includes a directory assistance service.

Claim 70 (cancelled).

71. (original) The method of claim 66 wherein the communication connection includes a telephone connection.

72. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

73. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

74. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

75. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein the level of access allocated to the initiator allows the initiator to only view selected data elements in the data source.

76. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein the directory assistance provider includes an operator.

77. (new) The system of claim 22 wherein the directory assistance provider

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includes a voice server.

78. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the identifier includes a telephone number from which the call originates.

79. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

80. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

81. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

82. (new) The system of claim 41 wherein the level of access allocated to the user allows the user to only view selected data elements in the data source.

83. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

84. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

85. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

86. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the level of access allocated to the



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initiator allows the initiator to only view selected data elements in the data source.

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87. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the directory assistance provider includes an operator.

88. (new) The method of claim 47 wherein the directory assistance provider includes a voice server.

89. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the identifier includes a telephone number from which the call originates.

90. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the action includes revising data elements in the data source.

91. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the action includes deleting data elements in the data source.

92. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the action includes adding data elements to the data source.

93. (new) The method of claim 66 wherein the level of access allocated to the user allows the user to only view selected data elements in the data source.